

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 91

By Pitts

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Martha Weatherspoon upon receiving the 2008 Ritchie Resident Leadership Award for her meritorious involvement with the Clarksville Housing Authority communities.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Martha Weatherspoon is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; she has devoted her time and energies to improving the lives of residents of the Clarksville Housing Authority (CHA) communities; and

WHEREAS, the Ritchie Resident Leadership Award is named in honor of Mr. Johnny Ritchie, a resident of the Kingsport Housing and Redevelopment Authority (KHRA). Mr. Ritchie was instrumental in the development of several initiatives and employment training programs for the KHRA. His dedication, determination, and leadership qualities were well-known, garnering him the respect and admiration of his neighbors, housing staff, and the community of Kingsport as a whole. After he passed away in 2006, the Tennessee Community Assistance Corporation (TCAC) developed an award named in Mr. Ritchie's honor for the purpose of recognizing those individuals who demonstrate extraordinary devotion and leadership within their resident communities; and

WHEREAS, for her noble dedication and significant contributions to the CHA communities, Ms. Weatherspoon received the prestigious TCAC Ritchie Resident Leadership Award for 2008, becoming the first person from Middle Tennessee to receive this honor; and

WHEREAS, the runner-up for the 2007 TCAC Ritchie Resident Leadership Award, Martha Weatherspoon designed the 2008 award-winning program “Financial Literacy for Boys” that is being implemented in all CHA communities; “Financial Literacy for Boys” is a program that offers young men valuable lessons in business leadership, proper business etiquette, articulate presentation of ideas, confidence, and an attitude for success; and

WHEREAS, since she became a resident in 1997, Ms. Weatherspoon’s list of achievements is voluminous; she has demonstrated the utmost professionalism and ability while serving as a member of the CHA Resident Advisory Board and as a member of Family and Community Educators; she has also helped form partnerships between the CHA resident communities and several governmental, educational, military, civic, and faith-based organizations; and

WHEREAS, her friendship and counsel were highly valued by her associates during the organization of the Lincoln Heights Resident Council (LHRC); she served as the first President of the LHRC in 2004 and was re-elected as President in 2007; and

WHEREAS, while serving with acumen and alacrity as President of the LHRC, Martha Weatherspoon has been responsible for establishing numerous programs to benefit the Lincoln Heights community, such as tutoring programs, job fairs, health fairs, etiquette, ball room dancing, neighborhood beautification projects, a children’s on-site library, and the Learning and Opportunity Center; and

WHEREAS, throughout her years of public service, Ms. Weatherspoon has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order who works assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Martha Weatherspoon for exhibiting great dedication to the cause of bettering the lives of the Clarksville Housing Authority residents and for being an exceptional asset to the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Martha Weatherspoon upon receiving the

TCAC Ritchie Resident Leadership Award for 2008, offer our gratitude on behalf of her many significant and meritorious contributions to the residents of the Clarksville Housing Authority communities, and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.